

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

CLAIMS

1. (original): A method for the continuous production of a composition comprising rubber (20), a hydrocarbon resin (22), and a solvent (26), with the use of a dual-screw extruder (10), which method provides for the addition of at least a fraction of the solvent (26) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section, at the outlet of the extruder (10) the temperature of the composition produced by dissolving the other ingredients in the solvent (26) being less than the boiling point of the solvent (26).
2. (original): A method according to Claim 1, in which a first addition of solvent (26) takes place at a distance of at least 4 D from the initial section of the extruder (10).
- | 3. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ in which the solvent (26) is added at a plurality of different points disposed downstream of the initial section of the extruder (10).
- | 4. (currently amended): A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding Claims 1~~ in which, in the portion of the extruder (10) that is upstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between 60°C and 120°C whereas, in the portion of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the point at which the first addition of solvent (26) is performed, the temperature is kept within a range of between 40°C and 80°C, the temperature in the upstream portion being greater than that prevailing in the downstream portion.

Preliminary Amendment

National Stage Entry of PCT/EP2003/006928

- | 5. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1, which provides for the addition of at least a fraction of the hydrocarbon resin (22) at a point of the extruder (10) that is downstream of the initial section.
- | 6. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 in which the rubber (20) is selected from the group consisting of natural rubbers, synthetic rubbers and mixtures thereof.
- | 7. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 in which the hydrocarbon resin (22) has tackifying properties.
- | 8. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 in which the solvent (26) is selected from the group consisting of hexane, pentane, dichloropropane, and mixtures thereof.
- | 9. (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1 in which the dual-screw extruder (10) is of the co-rotating type.